

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/099,855

Applicants: Takahiro OGAWA, et al.

Filing Date: March 14, 2002

For: DOUBLE-SIDED FERRULE MANUFACTURING METHOD, AUXILLARY MEMBER USED THEREIN,

END SURFACE POLISHING METHOD FOR

DOUBLE-SIDED FERRULE, OPTICAL

CONNECTOR ASSEMBLING METHOD, OPTICAL

CONNECTOR, GUIDE PIN, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR CONNECTING METHOD USING

THE SAME
Group Art Unit: 2839
Examiner: NGUYEN, K.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Response to Election of Species Requirement

Our check in the amount of -0- is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN RE APPLICATION OF

TAKAHIRO OGAWA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: NGUYEN, K.

SERIAL NO: 10/099,855

FILED: MARCH 14, 2002 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2839

FOR: DOUBLE-SIDED FERRULE MANUFACTURING METHOD, AUXILLARY MEMBER USED THEREIN, END SURFACE POLISHING METHOD FOR DOUBLE-SIDED FERRULE, OPTICAL CONNECTOR ASSEMBLING METHOD, OPTICAL CONNECTOR, GUIDE PIN, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR CONNECTING METHOD USING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Election requirement dated March 3, 2004, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Species V, Claims 17-21, for further examination on the merits in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected species of Claims 1-16.

The Election Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to patentably distinct inventions. However, MPEP § 803 states the following:

> If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Application No. 10/099,855 Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2004

It is believed that the claims of the present application would have to be searched in

one subclass or overlapping subclasses. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the

Election Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application

would not place a serious burden on the Examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden on

Applicants to prosecute and maintain separate applications.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single species be

withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-25 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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(OSMMN 08/03)

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